(e) These blocks are under exploration phase. ONGC has notified discoveries in deepwater block, KG-DWN-98/2. However, the commercial potential of these discoveries is yet to be established. The annual oil & gas production can only be assessed depending upon commerciality of these discoveries and development plan to be undertaken thereafter.

ONGC's petrochemical project

2979. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRICHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of petrochemicals project proposed to be set up by ONGC in MRPL; and

(b) the zero date of the project alongwith completion time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Board has accorded approval for upgradation of Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC from its existing capacity of 9.69 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) to 15 MMTPA. The ONGC Board has also approved the setting up of an aromatic complex to manufacture Paraxyliene (PX) from the additional quantity of Naphtha that would be available consequent upon the upgradation.

(b) The project is expected to go on stream by the end of 2010.

Purchase of bio-diesel

†2980. SHRI SAN JAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PSU Oil Companies could not purchase bio-diesel product since last one eyar;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.